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July 1, 1999

Honorable Michael J. Machado, Chair
Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife
State Capitol, Room 5136
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Machado:

This is in response to your letter of May 6, 1999, regarding participation of south Delta interests in development of agency actions to improve water quality and water supply conditions in the south Delta. It appears that some interested parties have come away from various meetings with understandings that differ from those of the South Delta Investigation Team (SDIT), a interagency group of engineers and scientists developing alternative approaches to addressing south Delta water issues.

In our February 9, 1999, meeting with various south Delta interests, which you co-chaired with Assemblyman Dennis Cardoza, we committed to sharing information with South Delta Water Agency (SDWA) and to conducting public meetings to provide all members of the public with several opportunities to review and comment on SDIT work products. Accordingly, public meetings were held on March 5, April 2, April 30, and May 28, 1999. In these meetings, SDIT staff fully explained their work on South Delta Improvement project alternatives and distributed written material to provide additional background and detail to their explanations. Additionally, at these meetings, SDIT staff solicited the views of the public, specifically including representatives of South Delta Water Agency, on these alternatives. Following these meetings, SDIT staff summarized public comments and presented these comments, as well as all stakeholder letters on the project alternatives, to the CALFED policy group for their consideration.

I should note that the SDIT process builds on more than a decade of formal evaluations of alternative approaches to south Delta water issues. SDWA concerns have been thoroughly articulated in a variety of contexts, including State Water Resources Control Board hearings and as comments on the environmental impact analysis of various proposals by the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation. South Delta Water

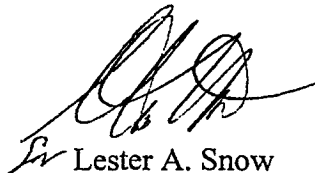
CALFED Agencies

California	The Resources Agency	Federal	Environmental Protection Agency	Department of Agriculture
	Department of Fish and Game		Department of the Interior	
	Department of Water Resources		Fish and Wildlife Service	
	California Environmental Protection Agency		Bureau of Reclamation	
	State Water Resources Control Board		U.S. Geological Survey	
	Department of Food and Agriculture		Bureau of Land Management	
			U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Natural Resources Conservation Service
				U.S. Forest Service
				Department of Commerce
				National Marine Fisheries Service
				Western Area Power Administration

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Agency provided the SDIT with an informational copy of a June 1980 report, Report on the Effects of the CVP upon the Southern Delta Water Supply, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, California. For their part, SDIT staff members have attended dozens of meetings in which Delta concerns were discussed, and these staff members have reviewed various DWR and USBR planning reports, portions of SWRCB testimony related to SDWA concerns, and CALFED Bay-Delta Program reports. I am pleased to read of your continuing support for development and implementation of a comprehensive water policy for California. I believe with good will and with compromise and consensus where these are possible, we will collectively be able to develop and implement that policy. I hope this information is helpful. Please call if you have further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester A. Snow', is written over a horizontal line.

Lester A. Snow
Executive Director

cc: Assemblymember Dennis Cardoza
State Capitol, Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 95814